

NEWTONHILL, MUCHALLS and CAMMACHMORE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTE 388

The 388th meeting was held in the Skateraw Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 26th November 2025

1 – PRESENT – Mr Flockhart (Chair), Mrs Stephen, Mr Ewing, Mr Cruickshank, Mr Torrance, Miss Daniels, Mrs Davidson, Mr Armes, Mr Morgan, Colin Pike (Portlethen and District Men's Shed) and one member of the public.

Mr Flockhart welcomed all and apologised for cancelling last week's meeting due to the weather.

2 – APOLOGIES – Cllrs Sullivan and Victor, Punya Samarakoon, Mr Jones and Dave Wills.

3 – POLICE REPORT – Written report received for October 2025. Youth disorder 12; Anti-social 12; Thefts 1 under investigation; Shoplifting 2 detected, 4 under investigation; Careless driving 3 detected; Drink/drug driving 2 detected, 1 under investigation;

Concerns are being raised re Police Reports only giving minimum information.

Mr Flockhart will discuss with PC Charnley next time they meet.

4 – MINUTE 387 – Accepted.

Paul Macari Item 3. - The Duke of Fife contacted Mr Flockhart re concerns raised regarding Elsick Development being responsible for the building of the new school. Mr Flockhart contacted Mr Macari whose response was "Apologies I should have clarified. The S75 requires the Council to build the first primary school. The primary school will be paid for through developer obligations paid by the developer on completion of housing units at Chapelton."

5 – MATTERS ARISING

(1)(6.1) Portlethen Men's Shed – Were successful in their bid for asset transfer at a cost of £100. Vote was 11 to 4. Mr Flockhart welcomed Mr Pike who explained how long, hard and difficult a journey it has been to eventually get this far. He thanked Mr Flockhart for all his help and support. If anyone ever needs any help with a Community Asset Transfer, feel free to contact either Mr Flockhart or Mr Pike. Over all a job well done.

(2)(6.2) Grit bins – Adopt a grit bin - Deadline for applications has been extended to Friday 19th December 2025. Mr Morgan has informed the School that the grit bin at the School is to be removed. Good bins will be re-used; uncontaminated grit will be re-used. Street wardens will be issued with grit. The Council is under no obligation to provide grit bins. As far as we understand, no Community Councils have offered to adopt a grit bin. This should be discussed at the next Community Council Forum meeting.

(3)(6.4) Chapelton lorry – This is now with Planning Enforcement. Mr Flockhart to enquire at the next Chapelton Liaison meeting if planning permission has been granted for the lorry. Whose land is it sited on?

(4)(6.8) Aberdeenshire Council Funding Share – Monday 24th November 2025, 7.30pm, The James Hutton Institute, Craigiebuckler. This meeting has been cancelled. Email from Mr Torrance - There needs to be an improvement in local funding.

(5)(6.9) Update on bushes – It would appear the land belongs to Aberdeenshire Council and the problem will be dealt with in due course.

(6)(6.11) Lane near the School – No further developments.

(7)(6.12) Fastlink meeting – No update.

(8)(16.2) Community Hospitals – Engagement Session – Mr Morgan attended. Small room, lots of attendees, very noisy and hard to hear. He did, however, discover that the portable X-ray machine stays at the hospital.

(9)(16.10) Portlethen Academy – Catchment Area – Aberdeenshire Council trying to ascertain what residents want, Meeting still to be held in the Mearns. Information will be collated for inclusion in the LDP.

(10)(17.1) Community Council Forum – Mr Flockhart to attend.

(11)(17.2) Meikle Carewe – see AOCB

(12)(17.8) Mr Jones' shower! No update.

6 – PLANNING - All our suggestions appear to have been included in the LDP. However, we could add in comments about the provision of a new school at Chapelton.

7 – CHAPELTON – A query was raised regarding the provision of a new school at Chapelton. Is Newtonhill Primary School following a streaming system whereby children who will attend the new school at Chapelton (2027?) are in a different group to those who will just be attending Newtonhill. Someone from the Education Department to be invited to a future meeting to explain what is happening.

8 – ROADS and POTHOLEs – (1) A92 Flyover Steps and Ramp – reply from Madelyne Simpson. The path belongs to Scottish Ministers Transport Scotland Response from Mr Jones advising they are not in a position to maintain the path. Aberdeenshire Council have not adopted the path and so cannot maintain it, (3) Pothole in Nethermains Road, Muchalls. Councillor Sullivan to see if there are any updates, (3) Mrs Davidson reported a pothole on Cairnhill Drive which has been there “forever”, (4) Double yellow lines. Mr Morgan reported Aberdeenshire Council has been too busy will 20s plenty signs to follow this up. Police will go with what the residents want.

9 - FINANCE REPORT - £3,966 in the bank. Approx £700 left over from SSEN.

It was decided that the Treasurer would receive an honorarium of £100 and the Secretary £250. It was also decided Mr Morgan would receive a bottle of whisky for all his efforts.

10 – ADMIN GRANTS – Documents have been submitted to claim CC grant.

11 – NHS – Community Hospital Review – Stonehaven Community Centre, Thursday 6th November 2025, 3-7pm.

12 – UNDERPASS- Still ongoing.

13 – JUBILEE COASTAL PATH – Several volunteers have carried out work on the path between Muchalls and Newtonhill. More will be done later. More work is also to be carried out at Findon.

14 – CONVENTION of COMMUNITY COUNCILS – Proposals were discussed but decided to do nothing.

At this point Mr Torrance asked if Skateraw Hall could be approached to have internet connection installed. Could be costly. It was also suggested we could move to the Bettridge Centre in future.

15 - CORRESPONDENCE

- (1) Draft article for the Newsey for checking
- (2) Aberdeenshire Restaurant Week final release 27/10/25, November 3-16
- (3) Portlethen Academy catchment meeting Tuesday 4th November 7-8pm via TEAMS
- (4) NSHG PIN Pre-op assessment survey – give your views –
<https://forms.office.com/e/veguUDNOKO>
- (5) Cerulean Winds Aspen Project Limited – Response time has now closed
- (6) LDP newsletter October 2025
- (7) Agenda for K and M Area Committee 28th October 2025
- (8) Renewal of Data Protection
- (9) Learning Estate Strategy - Phase 3 focusses on Kemnay, Laurencekirk and Peterhead
- (10) Prohibition of Waiting - Newtonhill Firework Display
- (11) Aberdeenshire LDP – Call for Ideas – The closing date for the Call for Ideas consultation will be extended from 31st December 2025 to 16th March 2026.
- (12) Aberdeen Rapid Transport – Community Drop in at Portlethen, 31st October 2025, 2-6pm
- (13) Summary of NES Community Councils' meeting 11th October and the proposed way forward
- (14) CYCJ Stakeholder Engagement 2025
- (15) A sign detailing opening hours of Newtonhill Library is now attached prominently in the old library. Wednesday 3-30 to 6pm, Friday 1-3.30pm.
- (16) Glasdon litter bins, tables, benches, etc.
- (17) Stagecoach Service Revision – 27/10/2025 – Nothing in our Area.
- (18) October to December 2025 roadworks on North East Trunk Road Network – Nothing in our Area.
- (19) Aberdeenshire residents can recycle their unwanted cables for International E-Waste Day 2025
- (20) Gourd recycling tips for Hallowe'en
- (21) Bellrock offshore Wind – Situated 120 kilometres East of Stonehaven. Upcoming virtual consultation – 17 – 30 November 2025 – www.bellrockwind.co.uk

- (22) NES Community Councils 'meeting 11th October 2025. Representatives from 38 Community Councils, Andrew Bowie, MP, and Douglas Lumsden, MSP attended. It was decided to endorse Highland Council's approach to a united statement. A similar document showing the challenges facing the North East will be drafted ASAP. A short life working group made up of approx. a dozen members will be set up. A draft document will be created and sent to all Community Councils for comments, hopefully by the 3rd November. A second Convention will be held on Saturday 13th December 2025. Any amendments to document need to be received in writing by Wednesday 13th December. Mr Morgan wants nothing to do with the draft document. After a lengthy decision it was decided to do nothing.
- (23) North Kincardine Heritage Group next meeting 13th November 2025, Skateraw Hall.
- (24) POLL – New Powers for Community Councils? Do we want more powers and if so what?
- (25) Prohibition of waiting – Old Mill Road, Skateraw Road – 24th October – 27th November 2025'. SGN are carrying out repair work. Mr Flockhart has reported there are problems with traffic lights. He has asked Mr Morgan to raise this at the NVA meeting which he is unable to attend
- (26) Road closure – From 7 Whiteland Road to Cranhill Brae junction Thursday 6th for 2 days for emergency BT works
- (27) NHS Grampian – HOPE Conference invitation, Wednesday 19th November, 2025, Cults Academy.
- (28) Aberdeenshire Council Property Matchmaker Scheme – Matchmaker Scheme seeks to bring sellers and buyers of empty properties together.
- (29) Free online session focussed on enhancing service continuity and emergency preparedness. – Wednesday 19th November 2025, 10am to 12pm.
- (30) NHS Grampian Annual Review 2025 – Public session, Monday 1st December 2025, 2-3pm, Curl Aberdeen.
- (31) Aberdeenshire Council pavement parking – Now in the enforcement phase.
- (32) Agenda for Bus Forum – Thursday 27th November 2025, 7.30pm to 9pm.
- (33) Request for information re festive events in Kincardine and Mearns.
- (34) Adjustments to textile recycling bank network in Aberdeenshire – the one at Newtonhill Library is to be removed.
- (35) Community Resilience Group Maintenance Equipment Grant Fund still has some funds remaining and are still accepting applications.
- (36) Aberdeenshire Council thanks residents for recycling 1,800 tonnes more in 2024.
- (37) Call for ideas and sites for Aberdeenshire LDP Plan 2025 – Closed on 31st October
- (38) Road closure outside Bourtreebush House, Cammachmore 20th November for 5 days.
- (39) Urgent road closure between Burnside of Newhall and Beechfield 26th November for 3 days
- (40) NESCCC Meeting 13/12/2025, 11am-1pm, Stonehaven Town Hall. Agenda. Proposal to adopt the United Statement as drafted by the Short Life Working Group. Any amendments should be received by December 3rd.
- (41) Kincardine and Mearns CAB - Mobile phone poverty

16 – AOCB

1 – Resilience leaflets – Could money left from SSEN be used to compile these. Miss Daniels will see what she can come up with over the next few weeks.

2 - Red car which was dumped in Walker Drive in July and has had a Police Aware sign on it for some time recently had a 24 -hour removal notice on it. The car was removed on Friday.

3 - Developer Obligations - Newtonhill Rec/Sports funds – refurbishment/pickleball court at Newtonhill Tennis Courts - £36,767.64; Muchalls Rec/Sports £806.40; Newtonhill Community Hall Funds £186, 869.85 – all to the Bettridge Centre. Are there any funds left and when do they have to be used? All funds have been dispersed except Muchalls. (They are working in the playpark at the moment).

4 – Just for info - Trading Standards undertook test purchasing of fireworks in 25 establishments. Not one failed.

5 – NEAT are to place swift nest boxes at the bridge in Newtonhill and perhaps Muchalls too.

6 – Lights on A92 from Muchalls bus stop, both sides south, have been out for some time but now seem to be back on.

7 – Meikle Carewe Awards – Most relevant to us - Muchalls replacement of shed and BBQ; Tangleha replacing steps at Burn of Findon; scything at Portlethen Moss; the Larder Portlethen.

8 – AMEY – Does anyone want to name a gritter

9 – Mrs Davidson queried whether we get advance notice of road works. Sometimes yes but there are sometimes emergency works which suddenly crop up without notice.

10 – Upgrading of rail track – Miss Daniels reported work has started at the Mill of Muchalls but so far, no word of anything happening at Muchalls.

11 – Consideration to be given to upgrading Newtonhill, Muchalls and Cammachmore Community Council logo.

12 – Peter, Punya and Torc had an enjoyable and informative time at the Bettridge Christmas Fair on Sunday.

13 – Mr Morgan praised the bin lorry men for managing to collect the bins in the recent bad weather.

Mr Flockhart thanked all for attending and wished everyone a Happy Christmas and all the best for next year.

The 389th meeting will be held in the Skateraw Hall at 7.30pm on WEDNESDAY 21st JANUARY 2026